



**Greenwood-Phinney Ridge Neighborhood Park Acquisition
Parks and Green Spaces Levy
Meeting Notes
November 2, 2009**

The meeting began at 6 pm with approximately 60 citizens in attendance.

Bill Farmer, a community member and former member of the P&GS Levy Citizens Committee & Campaign, started the meeting by summarizing the 2008 parks and Green Spaces Levy, and describing the main criteria that are used to evaluate properties for new neighborhood parks. These criteria include good sun exposure so new buildings will not shade the site, the presence of residents nearby so there will be “eyes on the park,” a site area of at least 10,000 square feet, on a pedestrian corridor and level or gently sloped sites to enhance use by people in wheelchairs. Mr. Farmer then introduced 5 potential park sites that had been identified by representatives of the Greenwood and Phinney community councils: 6802 Greenwood, 8100 Greenwood, 8301 Greenwood, 101 NW 85th St, and Midblock between 85 & 87 on Greenwood.

Mr. Farmer then introduced Donald Harris, Manager of the Property and Acquisition Services for Seattle Parks and Recreation, who gave some more background for the Levy and the funding it provides (\$24 million for acquisition in up to 20 areas in need of parks). Mr. Harris explained that the Parks Department was here tonight to hear from citizens about the proposed sites as well as others.

Mr. Harris introduced Chip Nevins, Parks Acquisition Planner, who then opened the floor up to questions and comments, which included:

Q: Has money been set aside to buy the two sites at Greenwood Park

A: Neither of the homes owners wants to sell

Q. Is only one site going to be acquired

A. Initially only one property will be acquired through the Neighborhood Park acquisitions. The community can apply for Opportunity Fund for another acquisition – applications for the first round are due in spring

Q. Is there funding for developing the park

A. Only acquisition funding is available at this time. Can possibly use the opportunity fund for the development

Comment:

We would like to see something like Greenwood Park –accessible, a meeting place. Also would like to get a park with a view from the top of the ridge

Q. What is the process for this acquisition

A. We are here to hear from you about the proposed sites and any others. We will continue to solicit public input and then we will talk with the owners of the priority sites to see what is possible.

Q. What is the Time-line

A. This is a six-year levy. We have no specific deadline for this project.

Q. What do people think about having a park across from the library (from Parks staff to the audience)

A: Like the idea

Worried about the loss of neighborhood businesses

Q. Has putting a park near a public library been successful

A. Parks next to public libraries have been successful. Examples include Fremont and Ballard parks next to the library

Q. How does this acquisition fit with the U.W. study and Open Space 2100 study that formed the basis for this Levy

A. The opportunity Fund will give priority to Green Infrastructure projects as intended in those studies (i.e. projects that utilize already publically owned property). No specific Green Infrastructure projects were included in the Levy because the committee was unable to identify specific projects for green infrastructure.

Comment: Any new park should go on Aurora

Comment: Make the new park more central to the block

Comment: There is a window of opportunity right now that we need to take advantage of

Comment: What about the Parking lot next to the Orowheat store for a park

Comment: 68th St site is at the top of ridge with a view window to the east

Comment: There is a lot of foot traffic on 68th because it is the major walking route to greenlake

Comment: There is a tremendous amount of foot traffic during day between the PNA and the businesses to the north

Q. Would a strong neighborhood association or P-Patch make a difference in this park acquisition

A. This is for neighborhood park, so probably not

Q. Does anyone know if the Greenwood Boys & Girls Club is leaving; that property would be a good park site

A. The Boys & Girls Club is actively engaged in the area and as far as we know they are not going anywhere else

Comment: Look in gap areas that are underserved for the park location

Comment: Want a park to meet neighbors

Comment: The Fred Meyer site is going to get redeveloped – are there opportunities up there

Comment: The community has looked at the 6802 Greenwood site for years for a park

Comment: Right now there is a long stretch before between parks. You either have to go south to the Zoo or north to Greenwood Park or Sandel Park

Q. What do people know about the Vision for a park at the Phinney Neighborhood Center

A. There is a play area right now. One of limitations of play area is that is for the daycare so it is a secured site during the weekday.

A. Mary Lou Dickerson – with the Farmer’s market and the need for parking it is unlikely that there will be a significant green space on the PNA site.

Q. Will Fire Dept take down building on the 9802 Greenwood site during their use as an interim fire station

A. No

Comment: It is nice to have richness throughout the entire Greenwood/Phinney corridor

Comment: Applaud the fact that you are soliciting views via the public meeting and not just listening to the Greenwood Council